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Identical letters dated 10 February 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I would like to thank you for convening the annual briefing by the Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to the Security Council, which presented the priorities of the OSCE for the current year.

Armenia welcomes the Irish chairmanship's goals for 2012 and has expressed readiness to work closely towards their realization. We listened carefully to the comments and opinions expressed by the members of the Security Council in this regard. All of the views presented in the Council, with the exception of one, are in line with our own.

It is unfortunate that Azerbaijan, a newly elected non-permanent member of the Security Council, used this briefing as yet another opportunity to present one-sided information on the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, not only far from reality, but in full contradiction to the spirit of the negotiation process within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group. Moreover, the statement is in stark contrast to the spirit of the Joint Declaration of the Presidents of Armenia, Russia and Azerbaijan made just last month in Sochi, underlining the readiness of the parties to speed up agreement on the Basic Principles offered by the mediators.

The 2010 OSCE Astana Summit Declaration recognized that "increased efforts should be made to resolve existing conflicts in the OSCE area in a peaceful and negotiated manner, within agreed formats". The agreed format for the Nagorno Karabakh conflict resolution is the OSCE Minsk Group.

What is the sense of the Azerbaijani attempt to open discussions on the Nagorno Karabakh issue in the Security Council or to change the terminology accepted by the OSCE and consistently used for a long time in the documents and statements of the OSCE? Using correct terminology to address the root causes of the conflict is one thing, but using terminology to change facts and distort the reality is a completely different matter.

While referring to the four Security Council resolutions of 1993 regarding the Nagorno Karabakh conflict in a partial, self-serving manner, Azerbaijan should be reminded that it itself did not abide by these resolutions, which urged "the parties concerned to resume promptly and to make effective and permanent the cease-fire". The main goal of those resolutions was the establishment of a ceasefire and the

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ending of hostilities, which, unfortunately, was not reached at that time because of Azerbaijani refusal. Thanks to additional efforts and further negotiations in 1994, the ceasefire agreement was signed in 1994 by Nagorno Karabakh and Azerbaijan, and joined by Armenia.

During its statement, Azerbaijan also tried to misinform the members of the Council about the work and conclusions of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs' 2005 and 2010 missions to the surrounding territories of Nagorno Karabakh by distorting the essence of the findings and by taking certain elements of the findings out of their context to further anti-Armenian propaganda.

Unfortunately, the behaviour of Azerbaijan confirms that the only guideline of this country was and will be the use of this distinguished tribune to distribute false facts, misinform and misrepresent the process of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict settlement. Despite its pledge before the Security Council "to the maintenance of international peace", Azerbaijan is continuously threatening to use force against Nagorno Karabakh and Armenia along with unprovoked daily warmongering by its leadership, dramatically increasing its military budget, violating the ceasefire agreement on the line of contact between Nagorno Karabakh and Azerbaijan, and systematically employing acts of vandalism towards the Armenian historical and cultural heritage.

In response to the calls of the last two years by the Secretary-General, the OSCE and the Minsk Group Co-Chairs, Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh responded positively to the proposals of withdrawing the snipers from the line of contact, to the consolidation of the ceasefire and to the creation of a mechanism for investigating incidents along the line of contact. However, Azerbaijan continues to reject all these proposals and continues to hinder the creation of an investigation mechanism.

Armenia welcomed the joint statements on the Nagorno Karabakh conflict by the Presidents of Russia, the United States of America and France at the Group of Eight Summits in L'Aquila (2009), Muskoka (2010) and Deauville (2011), and clearly stated its readiness to move forward on the basis of the principles and elements contained in those statements, showing that the approaches of the international community are in line with the approaches of Armenia.

Why did not the representative of Azerbaijan recall those statements in his presentation? Simply because Azerbaijan refuses to accept them. Perhaps it behooves Azerbaijan, in its newly elected role in the Security Council, to respect the work of that body and its members by refraining from provocative actions and statements in the future.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Garen **Nazarian**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative